

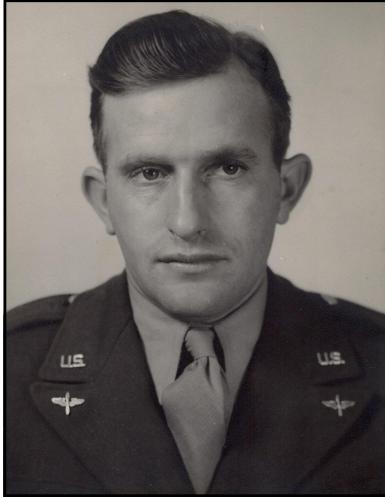


City Connection

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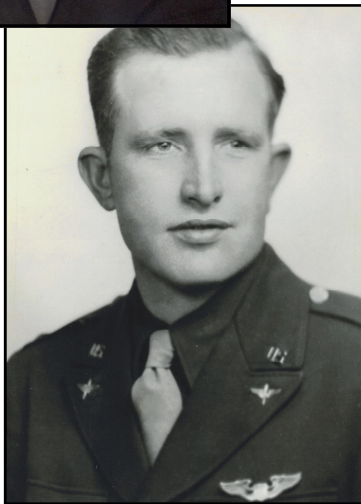
JUNE 2010

www.huntsvilletx.gov



Walker County
Heroes:
Reeves "Jeep"
Bruce, above,
and Harry Joe
Bruce, right,
died in service
of their country
in 1944
and 1945,
respectively.

Photos
submitted by the
Powell Family



Bruce Brothers Remembered

Huntsville Airport rededicated in honor of sacrifice

In a special ceremony on May 28, the Bruce Brothers Huntsville Regional Airport was dedicated in honor of two Walker County veterans – Reeves "Jeep" Bruce and Harry Joe Bruce.

The Bruce brothers, who died in service of their country during World War II, were recognized by a group of their surviving family members, as well as a large group of members of the Walker County community.

"I'm ecstatic about the airport being renamed, because it's proof to everyone that people are grateful," said Jessie Bruce Powell, surviving sister of the Bruce brothers. "Not a day goes by that I don't think about my brothers, but this dedication makes it feel like the sacrifices [of Harry Joe and Reeves] have been validated."

During the dedication, City of Huntsville Community Development Specialist Sherry McKibben

unveiled the airport's new sign, created with photos of the Bruce brothers. Inside the terminal, McKibben also unveiled an illustrated history of the brothers' lives.

"I can understand why people felt we needed to dedicate this airport to all veterans, but I feel it is significant that we named it after these two men because it personalizes the sacrifices made by this community during World War II," City Councilmember Melissa Templeton said. "This is extremely meaningful because these two men were born and raised in Walker County, right off of State Highway 75. After they got their wings, they both flew their planes into this airport, the same planes they later died in."

In addition to Jessie Powell, several other surviving members of the Bruce family attended the dedication, including Powell's two sons, Gary and Joe Powell.

Other City Council members and local dignitaries also attended the dedication to honor the brothers.

"It's important that we chose to honor these two veterans, but this really honors all veterans," City Councilmember Charles Forbus said. "We are infinitely grateful for the sacrifices made by members of our community during World War II and in all other conflicts."

Recycling pilot yields substantial collection, high participation

Pickups to continue in Elkins Lake until Council action

After the six-month recycling pilot in Elkins Lake, the City of Huntsville Solid Waste Department is pleased with both the level of participation and the amount of tonnage collected.

According to Carol Reed, Public Utilities Director, the department will make a presentation to City Council with a proposal to extend the pilot to an additional area in Huntsville.

Until the Council makes a decision concerning the proposal, the recycling schedule already established in Elkins Lake will remain in effect, with the exception that every fifth Thursday will now also be included as a recyclables collection day.

"We are continuing the recycling schedule in Elkins Lake past the end of the pilot date," Reed said May 17. "We'll present the results of the six-month pilot and results of survey we sent out with a recommendation for extension of the program to another part of town, and we'll wait until Council makes a decision before making any changes."

"We thought this was the best solution because if Council decides to continue with the program, we've already got people in the habit and there is already a program in place. Rather than stop the program, pick up the carts and then potentially have to go back to recycling, we think it's prudent to leave the schedule as it stands until Council decides."

As of May 17, Solid Waste Assistant Superintendent Jenine Dean said a total of 75.43 tons of recyclable materials had been collected in Elkins Lake, with an overall participation rate of 63 percent.

"We think the pilot has gone very well, especially considering that on a national scale, a 30 percent participation rate is considered successful," Dean said. "As well, a lot of the comments we've received from residents have been positive. We've heard some concern from residents about not having enough space for all of their recyclables, because they've been able to recycle a lot, so we are looking at 96-gallon carts for the future."

While three pickups still remained at the time, Dean indicated on May 17 that the City had been paid more than \$3,000 for the recyclables collected.

"We've been paid \$3,186.21 for the recyclables collected so far," Dean said. "Also, we've saved \$3,090.40 so far because we have not had to pay for that tonnage to be diverted to landfill."

"So not only are the savings showing up, but more importantly, the recyclables are not getting buried into a hole, but being reused, which is excellent."

Applications now available for City board, commission seats

Applications are now available for Huntsville residents interested in serving on a City board or commission.

Residents may submit applications at City Hall, the Service Center or online at www.huntsvillex.gov. The City anticipates the Mayor will make appointments for open positions during August.

According to Mayor J. Turner, serving on a City board or commission is an exciting opportunity open to citizens of all ages and experience levels.

"The participation of citizens is a key element in effective operation of our City," Turner said. "As a member of a board or commission, citizens provide important insights into the needs and operations of our community."

City boards and commissions are in place to address the major facets of the Huntsville community, including public works, housing, fine arts, recreational activities and athletics, and other areas.

Residents are encouraged to include their areas of interest on participation applications.

Turner said volunteers for boards or commissions may be of virtually any age or experience level, so long as they have a willingness to serve and improve the Huntsville community.

"Volunteers are needed from our community at all levels, from students to senior citizens," he said. "The most important quality for serving on a board is love of our community."

City to fill summer positions with Workforce Solutions youth

The City of Huntsville will partner with Workforce Solutions this summer to add 19 youth employees to the City's payroll from June through August.

The temporary employees, who will be between 16 and 24 years of age, will work with the City's [Community Services](#), [Tourism](#), [Public Works](#) and [Public Utilities](#) Departments.

"This summer, the City will partner with Workforce Solutions to add 19 employees to the staff, and they will be paid through a Houston-Galveston Area Council summer youth employment program," said Matt Lumpkins, Community Services Director. "The City formed the same partnership last year, and we were very pleased with the outcome."

"The individuals hired provided us with some much-needed assistance in many areas of the City at very little expense, and accomplished a lot for themselves in most cases."

H-GAC's Board of Directors and Gulf Coast Workforce Board recently completed plans for this year's summer youth employment program, and the groups have authorized contracts with a variety of organizations to provide recruitment, orientation, payroll and other necessary services.

The program is expected to provide roughly 2,400 out-of-school youth aged 16 to 24 with summer employment.

"These summer jobs can provide valuable work experience, as well as additional income," Lumpkins said. "I would have liked to hire most of our youth employees from last summer as City employees if we would have had the positions available at the end of the program."

What Huntsville residents should expect from 2010 Census takers

More than 635,000 2010 Census workers began going door-to-door in May to follow up with households that either did not mail back their Census form or did not receive one.

Huntsville residents over the next two months should expect Census workers to make several visits to their homes until the information required on the Census forms is received successfully.

Residents are encouraged to cooperate with Census workers, but should educate themselves on the methods of identifying and verifying a Census worker's identity.

According to a press release issued April 30 by the U.S. Census Bureau, there are several ways to verify that a person claiming to be a Census worker is a legitimate census taker.

First, the census taker must present an ID badge that contains a Department of Commerce watermark and expiration date. The census taker will also be carrying a black canvass bag with a Census Bureau logo.

Secondly, the census taker will provide you with supervisor contact information and/or the local census office phone number for verification, if asked. The phone number to call for verification is (800) 563-6499.

Also, the census taker will only ask you the questions that appear on the 2010 Census form. The person will not ask for social security number, bank account number or credit card number and will never solicit for donations or contact you by e-mail.

The Census Bureau has stringent systems in place to ensure that people can feel safe when they open their door to a census taker. All census takers undergo an FBI background check that includes both name and fingerprint checks. All have taken an oath for life to protect the information they collect and understand that they face stiff penalties, jail time or both for any disclosure of personally identifiable information.

Concerned citizens

The Census Bureau is urging cooperation and patience with the census takers, as this is the best way to ensure that everyone is counted properly.

In most cases, census workers will make up to six attempts at each housing unit address to count possible residents. This includes leaving notifications of the attempted visit at the house or apartment door, in addition to trying to reach the household by phone to conduct the interview or schedule an in-person interview.

Citizens who are hesitant to open the door for an individual they do not know may resort to waiting for the Census worker to leave notification, which will include contact information which may be used to either set up an appointment with the census taker or to answer questions over the phone.

"We want our residents to participate in the 2010 Census, but at the same time, we want them to be safe and to verify that they are actually dealing with a census taker," City Councilmember Charles Forbus said. "The Census is very important, but we understand that our citizens want to be cautious after the events that occurred in Houston with an individual posing as a census taker."

Census takers will go to great lengths to ensure that no one is missed in the census. After exhausting their efforts to do an in-person interview with a resident of an occupied housing unit, they will seek out proxy sources — a neighbor, a rental agent, a building manager or some other knowledgeable person familiar with the housing unit — to obtain as much basic information about the occupants as they can.

Some households will receive a visit even though they may have mailed back their form. If the form arrived too late to be processed before non-response follow-up packets were sent to one of the 494 local census offices, the household occupants must still be interviewed when the census taker arrives.

Households that didn't receive a form by mail, including those that pick up their mail from post office boxes, will be visited by census workers as part of the follow-up plan. The Census Bureau doesn't mail forms to post office boxes because responses must be associated with a specific residence location, not the post office box location.

Catch Up on the City with Captions



Photo by Kristin Edwards

Five City of Huntsville employees' children were awarded \$1,000 scholarships May 11 thanks to donations by City of Huntsville employees.

From left, Rachell Wilson, Megan Golden, Caleb Shearer, Chantel Langwell and Megan Slaven were recognized by their family members and other City employees during a brief reception held at the Huntsville Police Department.

"I'm really excited and grateful that I received this scholarship," Wilson said. "I'm looking forward to going to Stephen F. Austin University, where I'm going to major in music education."

Three other children of City of Huntsville employees, Daniel Anderson, DeKeenan Bell and Alissa Jones, also received \$300 scholarships for continuing education.



Photo by Dr. Sherry McKibben

Just in time for summer, City Hall received a new group of Crape Myrtle trees and Vitex bushes in front of its longest strip of windows. City Horticulturalist David Zeller and members of the City Parks crews, with assistance from a monitored group of offenders from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Wynne Unit who have previously worked with the City on sidewalk improvements, completed planting the trees in early May.

According to Matt Lumpkins, Community Services Director, the benefits of the trees include additional oxygen and lower energy costs for City Hall.

"The shading from the trees will help keep the building cooler, therefore using less electricity," Lumpkins said. "This project's goal was to shade the building to help reduce electric cost."

Hurricane Season 2010: Are You Prepared?

Reminder to residents to prepare for June to November hurricane season

Huntsville residents are encouraged to begin preparing for the upcoming hurricane season, anticipated to last through November.

According to John Waldo, City of Huntsville EMC, family and household preparation are important parts of getting through the hurricane season safely, and it is never too early to collect needed items.

"Hurricane season takes place from June through November, and you need to be prepared," Waldo said. "Knowing the steps to take during a disaster – whether that disaster is flooding, tornadoes or hurricanes – can greatly reduce the danger and distress your family may face.

"Above all, having a plan is one of the most important steps you can take in disaster preparedness. Knowing what to do and how to do it can help your family manage disasters with less

worry, fear and uncertainty. Citizens should begin making their own preparations for the 2009 hurricane season as soon as possible."

Waldo said individual preparedness can include developing or updating a personal disaster plan as well as assembling an emergency supply kit.

Typically, emergency supply kits will allow individuals to sustain themselves for three to seven days. They include items like food, cash, a first-aid kit, extra prescription medications, hygiene items, copies of important documents, a battery-powered radio, a flashlight, extra batteries and keys, tools, and a NOAA Weather Radio.

Families are also advised to store enough water to provide each family member with one gallon of water per day.

"Having an emergency plan and a

disaster kit will help you manage in almost every kind of crisis, and there are numerous web sites which will assist individuals in the development of a personal disaster plan and emergency kit," Waldo said. "The American Red Cross and the Federal Emergency Management Agency both have excellent information to offer online.

"Waiting until a storm enters the Gulf of Mexico may be too late to make adequate preparations. The time is now to start making preparations to ensure you, and your family, are ready if a disaster should occur."

For more information, contact Waldo at (936) 291-5945.

Additional information on emergency supply kits is also available at www.redcross.org or www.fema.gov.

In a special ceremony May 12, the City recognized a group of employees who have served City residents for five, 10, 15, 20 and as many as 25 years.

The employees recognized include:

Five Years of Service:

Winston Duke - Director of Finance

Rachel Smith - Accountant I

Heather Smallwood - Deputy Court Clerk Supervisor

David Pearsall - Electrician

Dusty Farquhar - Wastewater Crewleader

Stacy Lawler - Wastewater Plant Operator

Ricky Ross - Wastewater Plant Crewman

Anita Bilnoski - Environmental Lab Technician

Brandon Simmons - Solid Waste Driver

Brandon Koloja - Firefighter

Ten Years of Service:

Terry Johnon - Street Equipment Operator

Nick Gann - Water Crewleader

Joseph Wiggs - Parks Superintendent

Fifteen Years of Service:

Jason Pierce - Water Superintendent

Mark Reed - Wastewater Superintendent

Carlos Ross - Solid Waste Driver

Ed Farris - Solid Waste Driver

Bobby Rigsby - Solid Waste Driver

Jerry Hightower - Facility Crewleader

James Barnes - Interim Lieutenant

Doris Chischilly - Library Services Assistant

Twenty Years of Service:

John Hereford - Street Services Assistant Superintendent

William Richards - Senior Police Officer

David Collins - Police Sergeant

Joe Thornton - Senior Police Officer

Darryle Slaven - Police Lieutenant

Twenty-five Years of Service:

Susan Embry - Court Clerk Administrator

David McGann - Senior Police Officer

**The City of Huntsville's
175th Birthday
July 12, 2010
(Demi-Semi-Sept-Centennial...)
It's Coming Up!**

Calendar

June 2010

- 1 City Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, 1212 Avenue M
- 2 Yard Waste Trimming Collection - no call in required
- 3 Recycling Pick-up in Elkins Lake
- 9 Heavy Trash & Large Yard Waste Collection — **call in required** (936) 294-5796
- 15 City Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, 1212 Avenue M
- 16 Yard Waste Trimming Collection - no call in required
- 17 Recycling Pick-up in Elkins Lake
- 23 Heavy Trash & Large Yard Waste Collection — **call in required**
- 30 Yard Waste Trimming Collection - no call in required

July 2010

- 3 Recycling Pick-up in Elkins Lake
- 6 City Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, 1212 Avenue M
- 7 Yard Waste Trimming Collection - no call in required
- 14 Heavy Trash & Large Yard Waste Collection — **call in required**
- 17 Recycling Pick-up in Elkins Lake
- 20 City Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, 1212 Avenue M
- 21 Yard Waste Trimming Collection - no call in required
- 28 Heavy Trash & Large Yard Waste Collection — **call in required**

Please note: All requests for Heavy Trash pick-up must be made no later than noon on Monday, the week of the pick-up.

For Your Information

The City of Huntsville biennial survey is now available online on the City of Huntsville's Web site, www.huntsvilletx.gov. From the homepage, scroll down to the City News section, and the link to the survey is below. Please take a moment to share your thoughts with us.

Also, in addition to the City of Huntsville's own Web site, citizens can also go to Facebook or Twitter to keep up with City news.

On Facebook.com, just search "City of Huntsville" and become a fan. Or, follow us on Twitter through <http://twitter.com/HuntsvilleTexas>.

Police/Fire Statistics: April 2010

Police:

- ♦ Calls for service: **4397**
- ♦ Accidents investigated: **91**
- ♦ Animal Control complaints investigated: **87**

Fire:

- ♦ Calls for service: **103**
- ♦ Main alarm calls: **15**